

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7996

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 1758

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU

REF: (A) NICOSIA 1731; (B) STATE 177493

SUMMARY. PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU INFORMED ME AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT AN ALLEGED PLOT WHICH HAD BEEN PENETRATED BY THE CYPRIOT INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AND REQUESTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S ASSISTANCE. I CONCLUDE THAT KYPRIANOU IS EITHER ENGAGED IN A MAJOR DIS-INFORMATION CAMPAIGN OR ELSE GENUINELY BELIEVES THAT THOSE WHO CRITICIZE HIS LEADERSHIP ARE OUT TO GET HIM. END SUMMARY.

1. WHEN I ARRIVED AT THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE HE IMMEDIATELY TOLD HE HE NEEDED PRESIDENT CARTER'S HELP AND ASKED THAT I CONVEY TO THE PRESIDENT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. THE CYPRIOT INTELLIGENCE SERVICE HAS DISCOVERED THE ENTIRE PLAN OF AN QTE ANOMALY UNQTE.

COMMENT: THIS TERM CAN BEST BE TRANSLATED AS SKULLDUGGERY OR
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SHENANIGANS. END COMMENT. HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD GIVEN ALL THE DETAILS TO MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE WITH THE REQUEST THAT HE COOPERATE WITH ME AND THAT OUR TWO "SERVICES" WORK TOGETHER ON THE MATTER. COMMENT: HIGH COMMISSIONER GORDON TOLD ME THAT DURING HIS EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU, HE HAD EMPHASIZED TO HIM THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND UK AND REQUESTED THREE TIMES THAT THE PRESIDENT

AUTHORIZE HIM TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE U.S., TO WHICH KYPRIANOU HAD AGREED. END COMMENT.

3. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE PLAN STARTED FROM FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS IN GERMANY, THAT THE MAN WHO WAS PULLING THE STRINGS HERE IN CYPRUS WAS THE FORMER DCM OF THE FRG EMBASSY, PAUL JURBUHN, WHO HAD BEEN REPLACED SOME SIX MONTHS AGO IN CYPRUS BUT HAD REMAINED ON THE ISLAND. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT KURBJUHN WAS BEING DEPORTED TODAY (JULY 14). COMMENT: KURBJUHN WAS ALREADY PLANNING TO LEAVE CYPRUS TODAY IN ANY EVENT, BUT BY SHIP. THE DEPORTATION ORDER HAS RESULTED IN HIS DEPARTURE BY AIR. THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO DEPORT HIM. END COMMENT.

4. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE CENTER OF THE ACTIVITY WAS LOCATED AT NISSI BEACH HOTEL. COMMENT: THE HOTEL IS OWNED AND MANAGED BY KIKIS CONSTANTINIDES, A KNOWN RIGHTWING SYMPATHIZER. END COMMENT.

5. THE CONSPIRACY INVOLVED THREE ASPECTS:
A) "POLITICAL ANOMALY". THIS THE PRESIDENT DESCRIBED AS CONCERTED ACTION INVOLVING THE RECENT SPEECHES OF GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS; DEMOCRATIC RALLY PARTY LEADER GLAFCOS CLERIDES; AND THE ARTICLES IN SIMERINI NEWSPAPER, WHICH THE PRESIDENT SAID HAD BEEN WRITTEN BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN CHRISTOPHIDES FROM LARNACA. HE BELIEVED CLERIDES WAS AN INNOCENT VICTIM OF THIS
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PLOT WHO HAD BEEN TRAPPED INTO THE ROLE THAT HE PLAYED. HE SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING CLERIDES JULY 15 TO REVIEW WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED. I ASKED HIM IF THIS MEANT THAT PAPADOPOULOS AND CHRISTOPHIDES WERE NOT INNOCENT, AND HE SAID THAT WAS CORRECT. HE ADDED THAT THE LINKS FROM THIS GROUP WENT THROUGH TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN ATHENS. COMMENT: WHEN I COMPARED NOTES WITH MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE, HE TOLD ME THAT KYPRIANOU HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE THOUGHT "SOMEONE IN WASHINGTON MIGHT BE INVOLVED BUT NOT PRESIDENT CARTER". THIS ASPECT WAS NEVER MENTIONED TO ME. END COMMENT.

B) STRIKES AT EITHER CYTA (CYPRUS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY) OR THE ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY. THE PRESIDENT SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS FOLLOWING THIS SITUATION VERY CLOSELY AND HE CONSIDERED IT THE MOST DANGEROUS ASPECT OF ALL. HE LATER INDICATED THAT A CRUCIAL MEETING IN THIS REGARD WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AT FIVE O'CLOCK THIS EVENING (JULY 14).

C) THE PLAN INVOLVED TERRORIST ACTIVITY AIMED AT DESTABILIZATION. HE CLAIMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT FELT IT HAD THIS THREAT UNDER CONTROL.

6. THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THIS PLAN INCLUDED THOSE WHO HAD KIDNAPPED HIS SON. THESE PEOPLE WERE IN TURN IN TOUCH WITH THE MANAGER OF THE LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAM OLYMPIA-KOSS, AN ISRAELI NAMED

FOULKES, AND THE CONNECTIONS LED FROM HIM TO A POLICEMAN WHO HAD FORMERLY BEEN A BODYGUARD OF CLERIDES.

7. ONE OF THE RING LEADERS WHO HAD BEEN CONNECTED WITH HIS SON'S KIDNAPPING, VASSOS PAVLIDES, IN TURN HAD CONNECTIONS WITH A WEALTHY CYPRIOT-BORN LADY, PRINCESS ZENA GUNTHER, THE WIFE OF THE SON OF THE FOUNDER OF THE CYPRUS MINES CORPORATION AND A WELL-KNOWN SUPPORTER OF EOKA B AND OTHER RIGHT-WING CAUSES. (SHE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NICOSIA 1758

EXDIS

IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.) THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THIS WOMAN WAS SPENDING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS AND WAS WORKING WITH A SMALL GROUP OF EOKA B PERSONNEL TRYING TO ENLIST YOUNGSTERS WHO WERE BEING PAID CYPRUS POUNDS 90 PER MONTH. THEY WERE OSTENSIBLY TO "SUPPORT MR. KYPRIANOU".

8. AT THIS POINT THE PRESIDENT TOLD ME THAT HE WAS ONLY DISCLOSING THE COMPLETE DETAILS TO ME AND TO MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN AND PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TO WHOM HE HAD SENT WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A "LIMITED MESSAGE". COMMENT: I SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT THE FRG CHARGE WAS TOLD THAT KURBJUHN WAS BEING DEPORTED BUT WAS GIVEN NO OTHER DETAILS OF THE "PLOT". END COMMENT. PRESIDENT SAID HE REQUESTED THE SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF WE WOULD INVESTIGATE THE GUNTHER ASPECT. HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENED NOW, IT COULD CREATE TERRIBLY SERIOUS PROBLEMS, NOT ONLY HERE IN CYPRUS BUT ALSO IN GREECE AND IN TURKEY AND, HE ADDED, EVEN LEAD TO THE

DOWNFALL OF NATO. COMMENT: THIS OVER-DRAWN STATEMENT MADE ME WONDER IF HE WAS BEING CARRIED AWAY. END COMMENT.

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9. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION AS TO WHAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS CONSPIRACY COULD BE HE SAID IT WAS HIS ASSESSMENT THAT FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLE IN TURKEY AND THAT BECAUSE OF THE DELICATE SITUATION THERE, AS WELL AS THAT IN NORTHERN CYPRUS, THEY WERE ATTEMPTING TO CREATE PROBLEMS DIRECTED BOTH AGAINST PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND HIMSELF.

10. PRESIDENT THEN SAID THERE HAD BEEN A PLAN TO KILL HIM ON JULY 8. THE PLAN HAD BEEN DISCLOSED TO HIM BY SOMEONE WHO WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PART. AS A RESULT OF BEING INFORMED ABOUT AN AMBUSH ON THE ROAD BETWEEN LARNACA AIRPORT AND NICOSIA, HE HAD TAKEN ANOTHER ROUTE THAN THE ONE WHICH HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

11. COMMENT: MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE BELIEVES THAT KYPRIANOU IS EITHER PLAYING A CALCULATED GAME TO WIN U.S./UK SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT OR THAT HE IS SUFFERING FROM A FORM OF PARANOIA. WHILE I CONCEDE THAT KYPRIANOU MAY BE ENGAGING IN A DELIBERATE CAMPAIGN OF DISINFORMATION, I FEEL THAT THIS ANALYSIS MAY BE A BIT SIMPLISTIC. KYPRIANOU IS UNDER CONSIDERABLE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE AND HIS APPROACH TO US IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH HIS PAST BEHAVIOR IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES. HE DOES NOT ACCEPT CRITICISM GRACEFULLY AND IS VERY SURE OF HIS OWN JUDGMENT. THUS, HE BELIEVES THAT ANYONE WHO CRITICIZES HIM MUST HAVE SOME ULTERIOR MOTIVE. IN THIS CASE, HE MAY WELL BELIEVE A SERIOUS EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO DEPOSE HIM AS PRESIDENT. IN THIS FRAME OF MIND IT WOULD BE EASY FOR HIM TO INTERPRET A CHAIN OF UNRELATED INCIDENTS, LIKE THE SIMULTANEOUS PRESENCE OF PAPADOPOULOS, KURBJUHN AND PERHAPS CLERIDES IN THE NISSI BEACH HOTEL AND THE OTHER FACTORS MENTIONED ABOVE AS EVIDENCE OF A PLOT. HIS APPROACH TO THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER AND ME IS ONE OF THE THINGS HE MIGHT DO TO COUNTER SUCH A THREAT.

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12. AS TO THE FACTS OF THE CASE, IT IS TRUE THAT CLERIDES, PAPADOPOULOS AND CHRISTOPHIDES HAVE BEEN OPENLY CRITICAL OF KYPRIANOU, BUT THE EMBASSY HAS NO SOLID INFORMATION THAT WOULD SUPPORT THE ALLEGATION THAT ANY OF THEM HAS BEEN COORDINATING WITH EXTREMIST OR ILLEGAL ELEMENTS. WHILE KURBJUHN IS AN EXTREME CONSERVATIVE AND A KNOWN FRIEND OF CLERIDES, WE HAVE HAD NO

INDICATION THAT HE HAS ENGAGED IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. THERE HAVE BEEN MUTTERINGS IN LOCAL CIRCLES ABOUT INCREASED ACTIVITY AMONG THE RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS BUT AGAIN, THESE REPORTS DO NOT SUGGEST A MAJOR COORDINATED EFFORT. IN SUM, KYPRIANOU'S ASSESSMENTS APPEAR TO BE OVERDRAWN AT BEST. END COMMENT.

13. I RECOMMEND THAT THE USG TREAT KYPRIANOU'S REQUEST FOR HELP WITH CAUTION. IF HE PRESSES, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD AVOID COMMENTING ON THE STRICTLY DOMESTIC ASPECTS AND SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO DEAL WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS DIRECTLY WITH THE COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES INVOLVED.

14. AS IS EVIDENT ABOVE, I HAVE DISCUSSED MY CONVERSATION IN DETAIL WITH MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE, WHO IS REPORTING ALONG THE SAME GENERAL LINES TO LONDON.

15. SEPTTEL REPORTS ON OTHER ASPECTS OF MY CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU.
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